

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Membership meeting May 3rd

Officers

President	Randy Vallee, AL7PJ
Vice President	Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Secretary	Keith Clark, WL7CSR
Treasurer	Richard Block, KL7RLB
Trustee	Jim Feaster, KL7KB
Activities Chairman	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
News Letter Editor	Edythe Lynn KL7EL
Membership Chairman	Fred Erickson KL7VC
Past Past-President	John Lynn, KL7CY

Three Year Board Members

Lil Marvin, NL7DL
David Stevens, KL7EB
Pat Wilke, WL7JA

One Year Board Members

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV
Peter Bailey, WL7BW
John Murray, NL7WW
Steve Jensen, KLØVZ
Mike Borer, WL7CKB
Dan Horvath, WL7CLX

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

Homepage: <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>
Email Reflector: KL7AA@QTH.NET
Webmaster: lawson@gci.net
President: vallee@gci.net
Membership: frederickson@iname.com
Newsletter: edielynn@gci.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
Email: edielynn@gci.net facsimile: 907-338-4791
Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
AK time, every day on 145.35 MHz @ 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily
Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily
Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F
850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
Grand Son of SSB Net 144.20 USB Mondays 8:00 PM local
Big City Simplex Net 146.520, 446.0, & 52.525 FM Packet
145.01 Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
ARES net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
PARKA net 147.30/.90 Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL
224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 123.0/141.3 PL
KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC & QCWA
146.97/.37 MHz, 30 watts, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL
KL7M Anchorage Hillside
147.21/.81 MHz, Internet Iphone, 103.5 Hz PL
KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 3,940 ft
147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL
KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS
146.67/.07, 107.2 Hz PL
KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.
147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
KL7DOB, Alcantra (Wasilla Armory)
146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL
KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.
146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency
147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat, 103.5 HZ PL
146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat
146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat
147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat


~~~ HOT LINKS ~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>

SCRC <http://www.KL7G.org>

EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>

MARA <http://www.obarr.net/mara/>

Moose Horn ARC <http://www.alaksa.net/~kl7fg>

ARES <http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska>

KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC: <http://www.kl7kc.com/>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

*Please let us know if there are other clubs pages or good starting points that should appear here*

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**ABACUS RADIO REPAIR**

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM,  
Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.  
Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

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**Regular HAM Gatherings:**

**Tuesdays Lunch, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, "South, on Old Seward Highway.

**Saturdays Breakfast, 7:30 AM:** Here is a good way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

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**THIS MONTH'S EVENTS**

**May 2nd: EARS general meeting at 6:30PM** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.67- repeater.

**May 3rd: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.30+ repeater.

**May 4th: Anchorage Walk for Hope** contact Mike Borer at [michaelborer@gci.net](mailto:michaelborer@gci.net) or 349-8191 to help

**May 7th: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Hope Cottage offices, 540 W International. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**May 10th: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

**May 11th: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**May 11th: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**May 11th: Valley Walk for Hope** contact Wayne Groomer KL7HHO to help at 376-5604

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 30th: Moosehorn ARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** every other Thursday in the Soldotna Borough Offices on North Binkley. Talk in on 146.88 repeater or 147.42 simplex.

**May 18th: ARES General meeting 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> MARfest** Hamfest and Flea Market at the Alcantra armory from 10AM to 5PM.

**May 21st: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International.

**May 31st: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at the Fire Station 61 in Wasilla. Talk in on 146.64 - repeater.

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Palmer resident NATHAN O. SMITH, 81, died April 5, 2002, at home after a long illness.

A funeral was held at Kehl's Palmer Mortuary, with visitation at noon. Burial will be at Palmer Pioneer Cemetery. The Rev. Bob Lee officiated.

Mr. Smith was born May 1, 1920, at the family home in Palmer, to Theron and Martha Smith. An Alaska pioneer, he lived most of his life on the Smith family property in north Palmer. He was married for 52 years to Dorothy Grace Smith.

Mr. Smith worked in the construction industry as a heavy equipment mechanic, helping build roads into Denali and highways in Alaska. He served honorably in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and participated in the American Theater in the Aleutians. He was awarded the Bronze Star.



Mr. Smith was an active ham radio operator whose call letters KL7DJE were heard around the world. He provided critical communications during the 1964 earthquake and support communications for climbers on Denali and musters in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. He participated in the MARS network. He was very active on the Snipers NET and Motley NET and in maintaining ham radio communications in Alaska.

The love for his hobby meant many hours spent at his radio desk, through which he met his closest friends. He has received the last call: "Nate, come up from that ham shack! KL7DJE 73, thanks for the contacts," his family wrote. (The number 73 signifies warm regards among ham operators.)

Mr. Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; brothers, Robert and James Smith; sisters, Grace Dahl and Alice Williams; and daughter, Sandra Lee Daniel.

He is survived by his daughters and their husbands, Vicki and Bill Pedersen and Jackie and Dan Corey; grandchildren and spouses, Kevin and Jamie Koslosky, Cindy and Gordon Richmond, Laurie and Murel Kidd, Terri Corey, Amber Daniel and Billy Daniel; brother, Theron Smith Jr.; sisters, Nancy Still, Pearl Hughes, Pat Pitcher, Shirley Hislop and Sarah Kazashorov; great-grandchildren, Alexis, Cully, Cassie, Caity, KayLee, Derek and Coree.

Arrangements were by Kehl's Forest Lawn Mortuary and Crematory.

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#### **(UNAPPROVED)**

#### **Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, March 19, 2002**

The AARC Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2002, at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building at 540 West International Airport Way. President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The following officers were in attendance: President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, Secretary Keith Clark, WL7CSR, treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, Activities Manager T.J. Sheffield, KL7TS, John Lynn, KL7CY, and Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB. The following Board Members were in attendance: Pat Wilke, WL7JA, Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV, John Murray, NL7WW, Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, Mike Borer, WL7CKB, and David Stevens, KL7EB. AARC club members, VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC, and Membership Chair Fred Erickson KL7VC were also present. Visitors Phil Manny, KLØQW, and Dave Filley, WL7CDG.

Minutes from the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting were reviewed. Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, made a motion to accept it was seconded by Jim Feaster, KL7KB, and passed unanimously.

#### **REPORTS**

#### **Health and Welfare:**

No news is good news.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, provided a written report for review. He discussed his meeting with Lisa Rogers regarding Gaming funds. And after some background, he made a motion to move \$75,000.00 from the Gaming Fund to the Club General Operating Account. Steve Jensen, KLØVZ seconded it, and the motion carried.

Richard then made a motion to open a Smith Barney Account to buy \$75,000.00 worth of Lord Abbett Total Return Fund. Jim Feaster seconded, and the motion carried.

#### **Gaming Committee Report:**

John Lynn, KL7CY, says there are no problems to report, and he has nothing to add to the discussions from the Treasurers report from above.

#### **VHF Committee Report:**

The 146.94 and the new Pt. McKenzie repeaters were discussed.

#### **VEC Report:**

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, advised about extra testing sessions, 2002 VEC conference in Gettysburg, and ongoing study regarding the remote-testing project.

#### **ARES:**

Mike Borer, WL7CKB, is off tonight. Richard Block, KL7RLB, filled us in on the RV and Iditarod, and the Sat. tour of the BP facilities.

After a short break, David Filley, WL7CDG discussed the Adopt a Highway Program to see if the Club was interested in continuing their participation. Randy will bring it up at the April General Meeting for discussion.

#### **Old Business:**

Jim Feaster, KL7KB, presented a letter he drafted, to be placed in the next newsletter, regarding the use of the club call sign.

#### **New Business:**

The lease on the RV workspace was discussed. John Lynn, KL7CY, moved to extend the lease for one more month. It was seconded by Pat Wilke, WL7JA, and passed with one objection. Richard Block, KL7RLB, raised the issue of a long term solution for RV storage and office and meeting space. A committee was formed consisting of Pat Wilke, WL7JA, T.J. Sheffield, KL7TS, Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, and Jim Larsen, AL7FS, to investigate all possibilities, for final resolution by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. Phil Manny, KLØQW, advises he has been contacted by the Civil Air Patrol about the Scamp trailers the club has been using. It was decided to return one trailer, proceed with receiving a donation of the other trailer, and investigate possibilities for long term storage of the equipment.

#### **Hamfest:**

Preliminaries were discussed.



Lil Marvin, NL7DL, requested information on the equipment that was purchased for the RV project, at last years Hamfest.

Secretary Keith Clark, WL7CSR, advised the Board that one Board Member had reached their three unexcused absence limit. The position thus being vacated, will be filled at the next General Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by H. Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Secretary

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Folks,

Finally, after several months of putting the e-mail lists on the back burner, I have managed to find the time to learn about the ins and outs of the Mailman software. I could kick myself because it wasn't a big deal, really.

Currently, the KL7AA list has 75 members. If you ever want to know who is on the list, simply send an e-mail to:

[kl7aa-request@mailman.qth.net](mailto:kl7aa-request@mailman.qth.net) and type "who" (without quotes) into the subject or body of the e-mail. Typing in "help" in the same manner will give you the basic commands available to you.

One more thing that may be helpful for you to be aware of: If you have a full in-box and your messages begin to bounce, after a few times of this, Mailman will delete you from the list and you will have to resubscribe. If you need help with this, just let me know and I can help.

For Fred Erickson, if you could send me your current membership list, I can do a mass load on the addresses and get the user's group updated.

There is one last thing: With my recent promotion comes a new assignment. Unfortunately, I have to leave Alaska this coming September. That's not a big deal with the Internet, so I can continue to maintain this list. Besides, my current plans include keeping my home here in the valley and returning to Alaska in a few years once I retire out of the military. However, if you folks would rather have the list administrator in the local area, let me know and I'll relinquish it to someone else.

73,  
John/AA0NN  
KL7AA List Administrator Wasilla

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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 098.01 FROM  
AMSAT HQ  
SILVER SPRING, MD, APRIL 08, 2002

## TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

AMSAT-NA News Service (ANS) has received word via AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, that SaudiSat 1A is now open for Amateur Radio communications.

In a letter to VE3FRH, Turki Al-Saud announced the following:

Please announce the availability of SaudiSat 1-A (SO-41) to AMSAT members and to follow Amateur Radio operators in your region. Saudi OSCAR-41 has been configured for operation in the amateur service. The spacecraft will automatically enable its UHF transmitter over Saudi Arabia and the United States for approximately 20-minutes each pass.

The spacecraft is operating in Mode-J, centered on a VHF uplink and UHF downlink of 145.850/436.775 MHz, currently configured as an analog FM voice repeater. The spacecraft will operate in this mode intermittently, as power and spacecraft experiments permit.

SO-41's downlink RF power is 1-watt over both regions with left-hand circular polarization. The uplink antenna (located on top of the spacecraft) is linear in polarization.

SaudiSat 1-B is not available at this time as experiments and software development continues with 1-B.

[ANS thanks Turki Al-Saud and AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH for this information]

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I was reading my April copy of Circuit Cellar, where I was horrified to read a rather glowing report of the "Home Plug" power-line communications system.

This is a wideband digital system which uses 83 sub carriers spaced every 200 Khz from 4.5 to 20 Mhz.

Due to the impossibility of preventing signal leakage from the mains, it will likely make life for Hams and SWLs very difficult.

Tom Cantrell (email [twc@charter.net](mailto:twc@charter.net)) who is the West Coast Editor of Circuit Cellar Magazine wrote the article.

Tom seems to be a nice bloke, and a very capable engineer, but he doesn't seem to have a clue how nasty these systems could be to our hobby.

If you receive Circuit Cellar, you should carefully read the article and then send Tom an email telling him how you feel.

If you don't get the magazine, some alternative details follows (please read them, then write to Tom).

Interesting submission from the RSGB is at  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/rd/pubs/whp/whp-pdf-files/WHP013.pdf>



and from the BBC is at  
[http://www.qsl.net/rsgb\\_emc/emcplc.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/rsgb_emc/emcplc.pdf) BTW, details of Home  
Plug is at <http://www.cebus.org/HomePnP.html>  
Regards  
Graeme Zimmer ,VK3GJZ

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John G. Benitez, KE3XB  
ex-VK3FJY  
ex-N3UQK  
ex-XE1/N3UQK  
ex-MW/KE3XB  
ex-WN9NYQ  
email: [KE3XB@arrl.net](mailto:KE3XB@arrl.net)

Subject: help

I am a ham who will be attempting to climb Denali next month.  
I am trying to make contact with some club(s) who may be  
interested in helping me out. As I near the summit, I understand  
that contact with Anchorage is possible via 2-m radios. I am  
hoping to take one with me and maybe make contact with  
someone. I am hoping that after this contact, the person would  
be able to contact my wife via email to update her of my status.

Any suggestions? Any suggestions of whom to contact? I  
assume this has been done before.

Thanks for your help.  
John

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From: Ray Vaughan [<mailto:ray@rayvaughan.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2000 10:00 PM  
Subject: [Emergency] Special event operations

Just a few thoughts about ham participation in events...

Take a step back and take a look at what you're REALLY doing  
in an event. To do this, you'll have to be brutally honest. Are  
you really making a difference? If you weren't there, would  
anyone really notice?

This may seem harsh, but it's for a reason. I see events with  
Amateur participation going into some very different directions.  
Think of your major events and see which one fits yours the  
best.

One is based in tradition: "We've done it this way for years and  
it works. Why change it? "In this mode you'll hear the term  
'shadow' a lot.". Shadow this guy and pass his messages as  
traffic to the net so that this critical information can be passed to  
another official who needs it" New technologies, like APRS,  
aren't welcomed. No need for it. In some cases, the people  
being shadowed now carry city owned or rented commercial  
radios and is communicating themselves.

Does this sound familiar? You've stood on the same corner for  
many years. No pre-event briefing is needed, everyone has been  
doing it the same way for every year. Observe and report. Take  
no action, just report what you see to net control. Maybe answer  
some questions, give directions. Stand in uniform, hold your  
radio and look official. If you look carefully, you'll see other  
people doing what you're doing. Paid police officers, fire  
fighters, and others who are trained to do more than just  
observe. They have the training to do something when someone  
passes out. You might feel a bit helpless when something does  
go wrong near your post. Yes, your eyes are two more on the  
route, but they're just that, eyes.

Here's where I think we SHOULD be going....

Another mode is that YOU are now the guy who used to be  
shadowed. You are now the player, making decisions, taking  
input and acting on it. You are using amateur radio, but it isn't  
your primary role. You aren't the screwdriver, you're the engine.  
The feeling after the event is totally different. It really wouldn't  
have been the same event without you.

We IMPROVE the event. We apply our technology to the goal  
of the event. We aren't just told to show up, we've invited to the  
planning meetings of the organization. Our input is welcomed to  
reshape the event. We actually save the group some money by  
making them more efficient. This means more money for the  
charity. You do this by thinking outside the box. What training  
can YOU get to make yourself more useful at the event? Are you  
trained in first aid? Why not? Are you active in CERT yet?  
You've shadowed the parade-staging guy for years... how about  
actually doing staging next year? We know electronics, set up a  
traffic light to help the guy who paces the parade units. If you  
see a better way of doing the event, suggest it. We're trained  
technology experts... don't let that go to waste.

As we all know, we can't hand out ham radios to the players in  
the event and let them use them. BUT, we can take one of their  
radios and talk to them on it. We're trained communicators.  
Yes, ham radio is a tool in our toolbox, but we can also use our  
training to use other radios. Don't be shy to take a trucking radio  
on the city's system. Make sure you know it so well you can  
show others how to use it. All those beep and boops mean  
something. If you aren't already, the CP should be where the  
officials come to check out the commercial radios and get the  
briefing on how they work. We know how to charge and test the  
radios and keep records of who has what radio. And know their  
language. You should be able to understand everything you hear  
on a fire and police radio. Just being able to know that your  
information is being dispatched correctly can make a difference.

All this comes in very handy in an emergency too. These are the  
people you'll be working with after a disaster. I've heard the  
'you can't beat plain English in an emergency'. That's great if  
everyone else agrees to speak in plain English. But the  
professionals won't be, so you have to learn how to understand  
them. And they sure as hell won't understand our terms and



slang, and we have more than they do. QSL and 73 OM. Just getting to the point is hard for many of us. If you've been transmitting more than 10 seconds during an event net, you're blocking something else that might be more important. It's really hard to turn off the rag-chew mode. Listen to the pros and you'll see they get their important messages through in seconds with a minimum of repeats. I've heard the question "How many gallons of water do you have?" get answered by at least two minutes of everything you would want to know about water except how much was left.

Next event, tape the net frequency. A few weeks later, listen to it and look for common themes. If you hear "Where is the ICE truck?" 20 times then next year, put an APRS tracker on it. If the organizers say that don't know how many riders are on the sag wagon, come up with a way to use packet to send the biker's numbers to net control. The driver could be equipped with a keypad or a scanner to send a report automatically. A printer at the Command Post gives the organizers what they need. In general, keep an open mind and be willing to say that things should change. You have to be involved in the event planning to get to this level. But when they see what you're offering, you'll be invited back. If your area suffers from politics, this sort of change can be really painful. Sometimes the Amateur ego gets in the way of the big picture.

When you listen to the tape, see how much of the traffic is event related and how much is amateur radio related. If 70% of your net is about getting the free lunch and tee shirts distributed to the hams on their post, then something is wrong. Even asking where rovers are is a waste of time when you have technologies like APRS available. I've watched the voice traffic drop to next to nothing when APRS is involved. Might seem a bit boring on the air, but the CP is constantly looking at the screen and it tells as much as a few minutes of airtime. If net control has to ask anyone where they are, that's wasted time given today's technology. They're either on their assigned station, or their position is on the screen at the CP.

Participating in events can be really rewarding. But from time to time, you need to look at what can improve. As you see more and more of your ideas being implemented, you'll know deep inside that you're making a huge difference and you'll look forward to doing it all again next year.

Hopefully all this will get the thoughts flowing. Your input is welcome, but if it's not on topic in the list, please use direct e-mail.

Thanks.  
Ray J. Vaughan, MS, CBTE, CERT  
KD4BBM PG-7-15266

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From: David French, N7FAN [SMTP:n7fan@qsl.net]  
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2002 9:40 PM  
To: Reflector, ARES-RACES

Subject: [Ares-races] What happens with the infrastructure goes down?

This speaks for itself and is very interesting. Some of you might find it very useful. If you do decide to utilize it, or reprint it, please let the original author know.

David, N7FAN

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Self Evaluation Primer of Disaster Communications Using Internet and Cellular Telephone Services By Major James R. Sohl, CAP, WB5MPX, [rsohl@apex2000.net](mailto:rsohl@apex2000.net) Copyright March 1996. Reprinted here by permission.

The basic text of this document was an Internet message written and sent by James R. "Ric" Sohl, in March 1997. It was written primarily for USAF Auxiliary - Civil Air Patrol and for Amateur (Ham) radio emergency service personnel, but it relates to any disaster relief agency.

The idea came during a Ham radio club meeting where the reliance of Cellular telephone service and the Internet during disaster events was discussed. A concern that government and private sector agencies that provide disaster support were beginning to rely more on Cellular and Internet services, could create problems during actual disaster events.

This is because the main training and evaluation program for disaster relief training and planning is simulated disaster events. Most of these do not provide a realistic situation regarding a major event and the loss of a large percentage of public communications services.

This "Internet / Cellular Communications Exercise"; is designed as a self-evaluation for any disaster relief agency. Be honest, you only hurt yourself, and your agency, by not doing a true evaluation.

Even though the event is directed toward Civil Air Patrol and Amateur radio staff, it can be used by any agency or group.

It does assume some factors that do not relate to the general public. Most disaster relief agencies have trained members, who are better prepared to deal with a disaster event. Therefore the following is assumed:

Each member has received training in disaster relief, including: First Aid training, Survival training at least to a basic level, Expects to travel (and possibly has traveled) to a disaster event, and, Is prepared to perform some duty to provide relief / support to the event at hand. Understands that disaster relief work is hazardous and dangerous. Understands that communications between the disaster area and surrounding areas is required. Understands that communications are also required within the disaster area. Understands that these communications provide a vital link to coordinate support and prevent loss of life, and understands that the efficiency and safety of ones staff is greatly improved with good reliable communications. Is somewhat



aware that a disaster can occur in your own home city and, has made prior plans to have a "Disaster Kit" readily available to provide for necessary Equipment and personal gear for a 72 hour (or longer) time period.

The scenario for this simulation was based on my experience for more than thirty years in disaster / relief ground and air support missions. The training records are noted at the end of this document.

I know that some Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members, and amateurs are thinking that our radio networks are outdated, in particular our High Frequency long range networks. This is not limited to CAP and amateur radio, as many key staff people in many agencies / departments, feel the same way. Because of that, I have created the following:

Here is a little Internet / Cellular phones communications exercise.

Your community has just been hit by a disaster. The following conditions now exist.

No commercial power will be available for 72 hours. 60% of the power lines are down. 60% of all radio towers are out of service for 72 hours, at a 45-degree angle to your city from South to North. (Odessa, TX watch out, your trunking system just died, totally)

Landline telephone service is lost to 60% of the community. (This occurred at Alpine, TX, and occurs many weeknights between Midland and Odessa, TX)

Cellular telephone service is overloaded, and it takes two hours to get a line, and you may only use the service for 3 minutes. (This occurred at Alpine, TX and occurs often in larger cities)

All city and county radio networks are reduced by 80% (this figure is real for most trunking networks unless very well planned. I based this one on Odessa Tx. and the locations of their towers)

60% of the broadcast stations (radio and television) are off the air (see item 2.)

The Cable TV system and satellite TV services are completely out of service. (see item 1.)

All Internet service providers are out of service (see item 1, 3, and 4, this is not a joke.) 25 % of your fire department and police department equipment is destroyed.

No gasoline is available from any underground tanks, and the local government has taken over all overhead fuel storage tanks for government use. If you can show them that your use will support the recovery effort you may be able to get a small amount of fuel.

You have planned ahead (right) and have an emergency gasoline powered generator to power your radio equipment, your generator uses. 7 gallons per hour of operation, how much fuel do you have on hand (this may include your automobiles fuel tanks if you have a way to get the fuel out) you have \_\_\_\_\_ gallons of fuel, and can operate your generator for \_\_\_\_\_ hours. If you use your automobile to charge your batteries, remember the fuel consumption will be MUCH higher.

Do you have food for 72 hours for all members of your household? Note an MRE will feed two average people per meal. (1200 Calories each, and they are a lot better than C and K rations)

You do have five or ten gallons of drinking water don't you? In Odessa everyone has some bottled water, but what if tomorrow was your day to get fresh water?

Do you have a way to keep warm during cold weather, bed rolls, blankets, fireplace (for cooking as well. You did plan for this right?)

If we lost 60% of the radio towers we also lost a great deal of homes and many would require shelter. Can your community provide 60% of its population with emergency shelter. Your camping gear will come in handy now, if it did not get destroyed with the house.

A disaster noted above is a rare occasion, or is it? Check out recent tornado activity in the Central US and check out the state of Washington in the last two years. Much of what I described has occurred to many communities during the last two years.

Is your community, and are YOU, prepared? Not just to survive but can you help your community or the community 40 miles away? Do you have emergency radio's, both local (FM, 26.620) and HF? Do you have spare/portable antennas, tools, food, water, ect?

Civil Air Patrol and Amateur (ham) radio communications are a lifesaver. These may be the only communications available to contact the Outside world for Help and to take over the load for the local networks.

When Alpine an earthquake and a year or two hit Texas later, by a severe storm, the land line and cellular telephone systems were total useless (overloaded). CAP and Amateur radio became the primary communications link to the outside world for the first few hours. Most of Alpine people were not even aware that we were out of communications, or why.

Of note, smaller areas are fed by fiber optic cable for long distance service. This cable goes back to a main switch, usually located in another area. One time I saw no long distance service available for two hours. You could not call outside of the Alpine, TX area. Not Ft Davis nor Marfa, nor Ft Stockton. Everything in this area is switched through Midland.



Granted if the need came up, the phone company should be able to rig up something in a few hours that should allow some communications outside the area. But how much communications can you provide with only a few lines available? Ten outside lines (if your lucky) to the more than 3,000 local phones. You're going to have problems calling the hospital, much less someone outside the area.

During a disaster all conventional communications circuits will become overloaded and additional networks must be put into service to provide the needed communications to help your community get support and aid from outside as well as provide additional communications capacity to fill in between hospitals, Emergency Operations Center, supporting local government communications needs (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service RACES) health and welfare (Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES), emergency shelters, disaster support agencies (Red Cross, Salvation Army) and providing local radio and television broadcast stations with emergency information for the public.

The communication requirements will vary and will be needed everywhere, as the event proceeds and outside support becomes available, the needs will change and may decrease.

All amateurs, both local, and from the surrounding areas will be needed to provide the mail communications support role. Local and long-range networks will be required. After the initial support is put into place, the Ham radio networks will begin to handle "health and welfare" messages with the outside world and between shelters, hospitals, etc.

All Civil Air Patrol units and members will be needed to provide many forms of emergency services, your local CAP network can provide additional communications to support local needs, as well as providing communications for your units non-communications disaster response / support.

Read this message, close your eyes, and imagine that it just occurred. Your radio tower (if you have one; many CAP members only use a portable radio) came down, your home lost 40% of its roof. You can put up a 20 foot pole for an emergency antenna support.

Do you have any emergency power?

Do you have a 30 watt or higher power mobile unit installed in your automobile? If this unit was not used in the last 7 days, count it as out of service.

Do you have 1 gallon (1/2 gallon during cold season) of drinking water per day per person for your home?

Would you need to go to a store to purchase (they will all be out of everything in one hour) food, water, batteries, gasoline (none available) bed rolls, parts for replacement antenna's? If you answered yes to any part of item 4, you need to go to the store right now and get prepared.

If you are using any portable radio (this includes cell phones) that transmits, do you have an alkaline battery pack (with spare batteries?) If not count out your use of this radio after four hours of use. If the rechargeable battery was not charged in the last 72 hours count that battery pack as out of service. If you have not used that portable radio in the last 7 days, count it out of service.

Do you have (yourself or in your unit) an HF radio, including portable antenna and emergency power source, that was operated in the last 7 days? If not your HF system can not be counted on when you need it. You do not have time to fix it now. (This only applies to Amateur and CAP staff. ) I hope that I have made you think about what it can be like during a disaster situation. I have seen some units that only use their radios when on a mission and worst of all some units have no HF capability at all. (This only applies to Amateur and CAP staff. )

During the last three years I have called on local Texas CAP repeaters and stated "This is a simulated emergency radio communications test, I need a CAP station to answer my call to test your capability to provide emergency communications on this repeater. Is there any station available?" "More than 50% of the time I have failed to receive an answer. What would happen if a CAP member was in an automobile accident, with a CAP radio who tried using your repeater? (This only applies to Amateur and CAP staff. )

During a disaster your repeater may fail, can your unit still provide support communications without the repeater? (EVERYBODY, do your radios have "talk around"? If not, you're out!) Internet, E-Mail, facsimile, cellular and landline telephones have made our daily communications simple, easy and very handy to conduct our business. However, during a disaster all of these services will be overloaded, or not useable. They can not be relied upon for a true disaster event. During a disaster some of these may work, and if they do, that will make things easier, but you can not depend on that until it happens.

The thing that scares me is that many local governments, disaster support agencies, and even CAP units and members are relying on non tactical communications and are not maintaining their local and long range radio communications capabilities or relationships with RACES and ARES.

You should use your all of your radios at least once every week. Check into a local and HF net each week, and your station will work when the need arises. Do not forget to pack up those emergencies back up portable antenna (including coaxial cables, ropes, anchors, etc) systems for each band.

If your unit does not have two (one should be yours) High Frequency radio systems, that can operate on 4 MHz and 7 MHz, with at least the capability to operate mobile, then, shame on you and your unit. You're not fully prepared. (This only applies to Amateur and CAP staff. )

I am open to any comments or ideas that you may wish to pass on. This document may be re-printed as long as the original



source and author are noted. I would like notice of any publication that uses this material, but prior notification is not required unless you make changes in it. If you wish to change or edit it, please send your changes for approval by E-Mail. I have no problems with improvements as long as I have a copy for my records.

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#### Training and Experience of the author:

James R. Sohl, Licensed as a First Class Radiotelephone Operator, with Ship Radar Endorsement, that was changed to a General Radio Telephone Operator, with Ship Radar Endorsement. All such licensee's were converted by an FCC rule change. Licensed as an Advanced Class Amateur Radio Operator, with a station call sign of WB5MPX. FAA Licensed Pilot, with more than 300 hours mission flight time and 1,200+ hours total time.

Training and experience, as a communications officer for several Sheriff and Police departments, as well as serving as a Civil Defense Director / Coordinator for Brewster County and the City of Alpine.

Provided industrial communications service for many years to all types of systems, from 200 kHz to 14 GHz, transmitters, receivers and associated equipment. Designed and build specialized communications equipment.

More than 20 years service in the Civil Air Patrol as a Communications Officer at both Squadron and Group level, and as an Assistant Director of Communications for Texas.

Active in training and service as a Military Affiliate Radio Service (USAF/MARS) and active and qualified as one of six SHARES stations assigned to USAF/AU Texas Wing.

More than 20 years training and experience with Amateur (Ham) radio emergency services, including, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Weather Service SKYWARN program.

Actual experience in many disaster events, starting with the Flood at Sanderson, Texas in 1965. Experience as ground team member, , deputy sheriff, fireman, rescue squad leader, ambulance attendant, Mission Coordinator, Mission Communications Officer, Mission Pilot, Counter Drug Pilot,

Transport Pilot, Safety Officer, Air and Ground Operations Officer, Net control operator for ARES, and RACES networks.

## QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

May 2002

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Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!

May 7 - 0100z to 0300z (Monday evening US/Canada)

#### Rules:

[http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan\\_sprints/ss\\_rules.htm](http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_rules.htm)  
1

"Testing of lightweight radio gear suitable for outdoor QRP expeditions"

---

QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!

May 26 - 2000 to 2400 (Local Time)

Rules: <http://personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arci/hoot.htm>

"QRP Fun"

---

Michigan QRP Memorial Day Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!

May 27 - 2300z to May 28 - 0300z

Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrpcclub/rules01.htm>

"Bonus Points on HB Equipment"

+==+==+==+==+==+==+



# HAMFEST AND ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

THE MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC.  
WILL BE HOLDING IT'S ANNUAL HAMFEST  
AT THE ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
ARMORY "ALCANTRA" IN WASILLA, ALASKA  
SEWARD MERIDIAN PKWY AND BOGARD ROAD

**SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2002**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 10:00 AM TIL 5:00 PM  
VENDORS SETUP 09:00 AM



OPEN TO ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN COMMUNICATION DEVICES  
AND COMPUTERS. THE MAIN THEME WILL BE ON AMATEUR RADIOS  
AND HOW TO BECOME AN AMATEUR "HAM" RADIO OPERATOR. KEEP  
IN MIND THAT A FEDERAL LICENSE IS REQUIRED TO OPERATE ANY  
HAM GEAR AND WE WILL GLADLY ASSIST YOU IN OBTAINING ONE.

**\*\*\* REMEMBER, WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, TRY HAM RADIO! \*\*\***

ADMITTANCE= \$ 3.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WHEN ACCOMPNIED BY AN ADULT

TABLES AVAILABLE: RESERVE A TABLE AND SAVE MONEY!

RESERVED NON COMMERCIAL= \$ 10.00 NOT RESERVED= \$ 15.00

RESERVED COMMERCIAL= \$ 20.00 NOT RESERVED= \$ 25.00

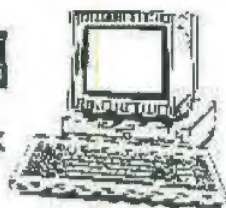
BARREL HEAD TABLE= 10 PERCENT OF ANY ITEM SOLD, GOES TO MARA CLUB FUNDING

DEMONSTRATIONS



PACKET RADIO  
COMPUTER LINK

EMERGENCY  
SERVICES



SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS  
WITH A HAND HELD RADIO

## REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

PROVIDED BY MATSU VALLEY 4 H CLUB

## DOOR PRIZES AWARDED HOURLY

YOUR \$3.00 TICKET MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE FOR  
DOOR PRIZES DRAWN RANDOMLY ON THE HOUR  
AND FOR A SPECIAL GRAND PRIZE TO BE DRAWN  
AT THE END OF THE HAMFEST. HOURLY WINNERS  
MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE PRIZES, IF NOT A  
NEW TICKET IS TO BE PICKED. THE GRAND PRIZE  
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT AND WILL ASAP  
BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR GOOD FORTUNE.

SIGN UP FOR  
HAM CLASSES...

CLASSES HELD  
IN WASILLA FOR  
A CONVENIENCE  
TO VALLEY FOLK

PAY ONLY COST  
OF TEACHING  
MATERIALS



HAM LICENSE TESTING  
TWO SESSIONS  
READY TO TEST / UPGRADE?  
BRING IDENTIFICATION

CONTACT AND INFORMATION CALL= TIM @ 746-5488 LEN @ 373-5413

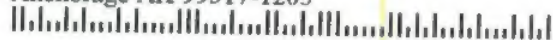


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200211



## LIDS



Tim ComFarr NL7SK  
MAY 2002

DICK WAS HAVING LOTS OF TROUBLE PROGRAMMING HIS NEW HANDY TALKIE. NO WAY SEEMED TO WORK EVEN IF THE MANUAL WAS FOLLOWED TO THE LETTER. THE ONLY RESULTS WERE A SERIES OF SQUEAKS AND BEEPS WITH A FEW PHONE TONES THROWN IN. AN OCCASIONAL MESSAGE SAYING "I LUV YOU, DO YOU LUV ME"? WHEN THE PTT WAS PRESSED. THE MYSTERY WAS SOLVED BY CONTACTING TECH SUPPORT AT ICHIBON #1 INC. WHO ADMITTED HIS HT SHARED THE THE SAME PROCESSOR AS THEIR OTHER PRODUCT LINE, THE "CUTIE COOCHIE COO-COO DOLL". THEY WERE SENDING A REPLACEMENT BY OVERNIGHT MAIL.